

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

Claim 1 (Original). A process for CoQ10 production comprising introducing a mevalonate operon of a microorganism belonging to the genus *Paracoccus* into a microorganism belonging to the genus *Rhodobacter* and cultivating the modified *Rhodobacter* strain.

Claim 2 (Original). The process of claim 1, wherein *R. sphaeroides* is used as the CoQ10 producing microorganism.

Claim 3 (Currently amended). The process of claim 1 or 2 wherein the mevalonate operon of *Paracoccus zeaxanthinifaciens* is introduced into the *Rhodobacter* strain.

Claim 4 (Original). A process for producing CoQ10 which comprises culturing, in a medium, a microorganism of the genus *Rhodobacter* into which the mevalonate operon of a microorganism of the genus *Paracoccus* has been introduced, allowing CoQ10 to form and accumulate in the culture and recovering CoQ10 therefrom.

Claim 5 (Original). A microorganism of the genus *Rhodobacter* containing the mevalonate operon of a microorganism of the genus *Paracoccus*.

Claim 6 (Original). The microorganism of claim 5 which is *Rhodobacter sphaeroides*.

Claim 7 (Currently amended). The microorganism of claim 5 or ~~6~~ containing the mevalonate operon of *Paracoccus zeaxanthinifaciens*.

Claim 8 (Cancelled).

Claim 9 (Original). A method for increasing CoQ10 production in a microorganism of the genus *Rhodobacter* by introducing into a *Rhodobacter* strain the mevalonate operon of a microorganism of the genus *Paracoccus* and cultivating the transformant.